

# THE BEACON

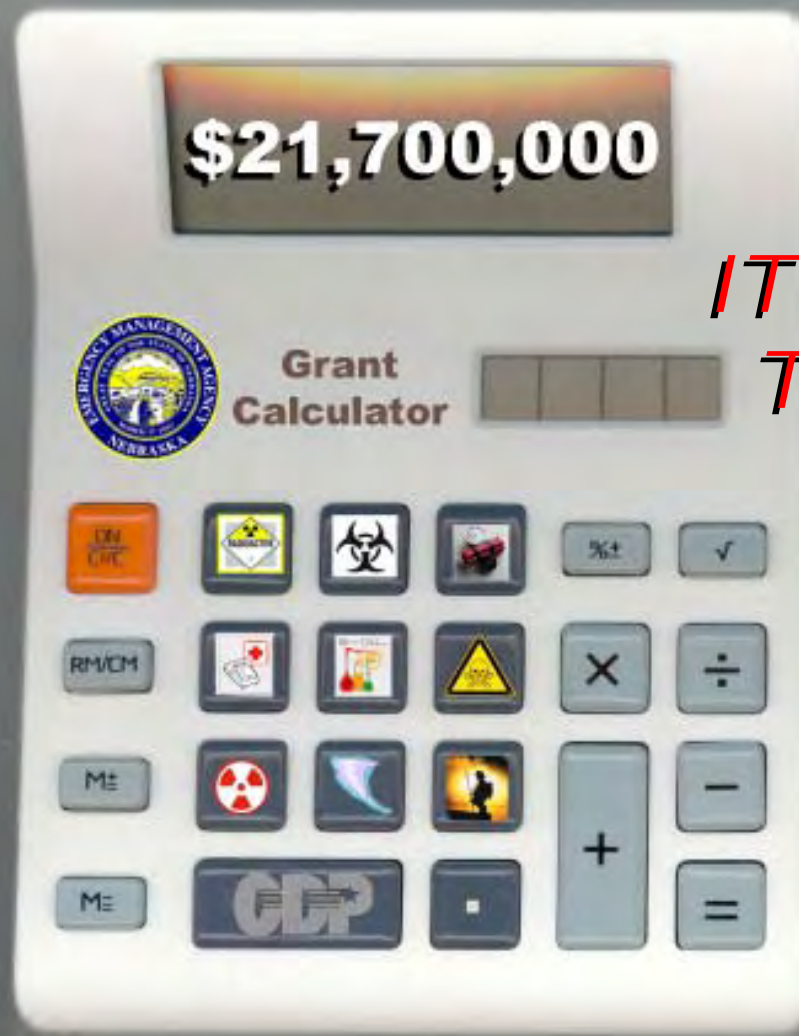


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**Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**

**MAY-JUNE 2006**



***IT'S  
THAT  
TIME  
AGAIN!***

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## NEBRASKA TO RECEIVE \$21 MILLION IN 2006 HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Lincoln, Neb.)

Gov. Dave Heineman has received word that Nebraska will receive more than \$21.7 million in federal funding as part of the 2006 homeland security grant program.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security examined several factors in determining the amount of funding made available to each state. While Nebraska ranks lower in terms of assessed risk, the state was determined to be in the top 25 percent nationally in effectiveness of planning and proposed solutions to regional security challenges.

"Nebraska has developed a reputation as a leader in homeland security and this latest round of funding is an indication of the good work our state has done when it comes to developing a comprehensive and coordinated approach to emergency preparedness," Gov. Heineman said. "The fact that our funding has remained relatively consistent tells me that the priority we've placed on state and local integration has paid off."

Funding for the federal grant program was reduced by 29 percent between FY 2005 and FY 2006. Last year Nebraska received more than \$23 million in funding.

A portion of this year's \$21.7 million in funding will be dedicated to preparedness efforts in and around the greater Omaha area. Recognized as one of the nation's metropolitan security areas during the 2005 grant process,



the state's Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) will receive more than \$8.3 million in funding.

The state will distribute grants to local and county governments, which have already submitted requests for funding. Members of the Homeland Security Policy Group will review requests and make recommendations to the Governor regarding the allocation of funding. As in previous years, the state will continue to place a high priority on projects that improve communications and interoperability among first responders and emergency management personnel. Grant allocations are expected to be announced in August.

Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy, Nebraska's homeland security director, said, "The ability to communicate is key to ensuring a coordinated and effective response in an emergency. A significant portion of our funding has helped to develop communications networks across the state, and we continue to make progress towards our goal of statewide interoperability."

## SAFETY FIRST - Rose helps Clay County prepare

(The following excerpt was featured in the Friday, May 5 2006 issue of Outlook in the Hastings Tribune. It is reprinted here by permission. To read the entire article, please see the Hastings Tribune.)

Edgar – This year, Bob Rose marks three decades of involvement with emergency planning and management in Clay County.

After serving as Edgar's local Emergency Management Director and Clay County's deputy emergency manager, Rose became county emergency management director in 1980.

He's held the post ever since, working side-by-side with his wife and deputy, Carol.

Rose's primary career was in public education – he taught and coached in Ne-



braska schools for 40 years. Now that he's retired from teaching school, he can give more of his time to educating citizens on how to be ready for whatever nature or man tosses their way.

### Bob Rose

Age: 63

Occupation: **Clay County Emergency Management Director**

Hometown: **Kearney**

Education: **Bachelor of arts in business education and math education, Kearney State College; master of arts in mathematics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Basic Emergency Management certification and Advanced Emergency Management certification from the State of Nebraska; Emergency Medical Technician, Hazardous Material to Technician Level and Hazardous Material Instructor; basic firefighter training; Certified Severe Weather Spotter designation from the National Weather Service.**

Career Information: **Math instructor/coach at Ravenna for three years, Lexington three years, Newman Grove one year, and Sandy Creek 33 years. Became Edgar emergency manager in 1976, Clay County deputy emergency manager, 1978.**

Length of Tenure: **Volunteer Clay County Emergency Management Director, 1980-2004; full-time county EM Director since then.**



## LEPC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE



**Tonya Smith**

The LEPC Conference Registration Brochure is on the web. You won't want to miss this conference! There will be presenters from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), as well as informational booths on public health and environmental issues.

Download the brochure from the NEMA web site at: [http://www.nema.ne.gov/index\\_html?page=content/SERC/serc\\_home.html](http://www.nema.ne.gov/index_html?page=content/SERC/serc_home.html)

NEW this year: We are highlighting LEPCs that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We are looking for a LEPC, a LEPC Member and a Business/Industry that has proven to be an asset to their community. To nominate someone, download the LEPC nomination form on the web.

Feel free to contact Tonya Smith or Marie Christian at NEMA, (402) 471-7421 if you have questions or need a nomination form. We're looking forward to a great conference!!!!

## SANDRA PAICE LEAVES NEMA, NAMED ADMIRAL IN NEBRASKA NAVY

Sandra Paice, Radiological Emergency Management Planning Specialist for NEMA, has left the agency effective June 30, 2006.

Sandra came to the agency as a Communications Assistant, and transferred into the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program as a planner for Ft. Calhoun and the affected counties. Sandra devoted 13 years of service to NEMA and the REP program. She has taken a position as an Administrative Assistant with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Sandra's admiralship was given in recognition of, and as thank you for, her years of dedicated service to the agency.



**NEMA Assistant Director Al Berndt congratulates Admiral Sandra Paice.**

## NEMA EOC FEATURED IN PREMIERE ISSUE OF "EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT" MAGAZINE

The first issue of Government Technology's "Emergency Management" magazine showcases the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center in its "EOC Analysis" section.

Featuring photos provided by NEMA, the article describes the agency's cold-war-era-bunker-based facility and the capabilities that NEMA brings to emergency management for the State of Nebraska. The on-line issue is available at <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/>.



## STANTON COUNTY INSTALLS NEW WARNING SYSTEMS

There was a new sound in the Village of Pilger in May with the testing of the new outdoor warning system. The new system replaces the old town noon whistle, which was installed on a windmill tower next to the village offices in 1957.

Stanton County Emergency Director Sanford Goshorn instructed the Fire Chief and village employees on the types of activation which can set the siren off. Testing was done on a fire call and severe storm warning sounds, which can be activated by radio from anywhere in the County.

One of the most important considerations is that the outdoor warning system is battery activated, and will work without an outside power source.

The purchase of this siren came with the help of the County Commissioners and local donations. Director Goshorn said "with the purchase and installation of this siren, we now bring the three major populated areas in the county under one system." The City of Stanton received their new outdoor warning system last year, which also can be activated by radio from anywhere in the County.

The first new system was put into place in Woodland Park, a Sanitary Improvement District (SID) located in Stanton County just outside Norfolk. Goshorn said it makes it nice to not need to stand beside a control system to activate the warning systems.

"Any one of my Deputies, and certain people in local government, can activate the system when needed."

Testing is done on a regular time table, now set for noon on a Saturday for Stanton and Pilger. Goshorn said it has long been one of his priorities to get new outdoor warning systems for the three major areas in Stanton County.

## CASS COUNTY EMA CONDUCTS ANHYDROUS EXERCISE

The Cass County Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), conducted a full-scale exercise on April 25th at the Cass County Fairgrounds near Weeping Water, NE.

NDEQ contracted this exercise with TETRA TECH based out of Kansas City. This was a *live agent exercise, Anhydrous Ammonia plume*. The purpose of this exercise was to provide an opportunity for

NDEQ's Immediate Response Team (IRT) to test their ability to safely deploy their air-monitoring RAE System.



The exercise went very well, despite the cold and rainy day. Participating agencies included NDEQ, the EPA, Cass County Emergency Management, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Weeping Water Fire Department and the Weeping Water Police Department.



## BUFFALO COUNTY CONDUCTING C.E.R.T. TRAINING

*(This article appeared in the Kearney Hub on May 13, 2005, written by Lori Potter. It is reprinted here by permission.)*

**K**EARNEY — Buffalo County Emergency Management Director Darrin Lewis hopes to find out someday what it's like to have a database listing 50 volunteers trained to respond to a disaster.

Each could be a leader for groups of six or 12 "untrained spontaneous volunteers" to assist law enforcement, firefighters and other responders to a natural or manmade disaster.

A step toward creating Lewis' list will be taken in June. A free 20-hour, three-part training for Community Emergency Response Team members is available for up to 30 people age 18 and older.

"No one knows where or when a disaster may strike," Lewis said. "Tornadoes, hailstorms, flash floods, fires, blizzards or a manmade disaster may cause emergency services to be quickly overwhelmed, especially in the first few days after the incident occurs. Trained citizens are needed to help during these times."

Lewis and J.R. Reider of Holdrege, a certified trainer and coordinator for Region 15/Buffalo County CERT, said every emergency draws well-intentioned, but untrained, volunteers who sometimes can make a situation worse by not knowing what to do or how to do it.

CERT classes are scheduled from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. June 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 17 and 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 24 at the Buffalo County Extension Center at 1400 E. 34th St.

Another set of training classes are being planned in July at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Reider and his wife, Paula, have trained more than 400 CERT students from across the state the past three years, including 21 who recently completed classes in Holdrege. Reider is coordinator for a region that now includes Buffalo,



**J.R. Reider of Holdrege, Region 15/ Buffalo County CERT coordinator, displays supplies from a backpack for volunteers trained to respond to emergencies.**

Phelps, Gosper and Frontier counties and soon may expand to Dawson, Kearney and other south-central Nebraska counties.

"It's new to Buffalo County, but it's not new," he said, explaining that the first program to train citizens for disaster response started in 1994 in Los Angeles.

"We concentrate on teaching very basic, simple skills that anybody can do. We train people from all walks of life," Reider said. "... In a disaster, they become part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Training starts with classroom instruction. Then, there are practical experience activities on such topics as basic fire suppression, disaster triage and medical training, basic search and rescue skills, disaster psychology, and terrorism recognition, followed by a full disaster drill on the final afternoon of training.

Reider said a new module has been added on pandemic awareness.

Each CERT graduate gets a backpack holding personal protection and safety equipment. The gear, valued at \$100 to \$120, is free to students under grants from the federal Department of Homeland Security, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and Two Rivers Public

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**BUFFALO COUNTY C.E.R.T. TRAINING** (CONTINUED)*(continued from page 6)*

Health Department.

"We do disaster-level medical training ... not cuts and scrapes," Reider said during a press conference Friday at the Kearney/Buffalo County Law Enforcement Center.

The focus is on treating shock, stopping bleeding and clearing airways. He said if those emergencies are addressed, about 80 percent of disaster victims can be saved.

The backpack holds first-aid materials: safety gloves, goggles and facemasks; a flashlight with a high-beam function; hard hat; thermal blanket; light sticks; a whistle for signaling; and an all-purpose, non-spark tool that can be used as a hammer, pick or to turn off gas or water lines.

"Then we have the handyman's secret weapon," Reider said, "duct tape." It's key use after a disaster is to mark buildings that were searched for victims.

"This is just a starting point," he said, and CERT members are encouraged to customize their backpacks to include other supplies that fit their individual needs.

Lewis and Reider said a goal is to see everyone prepared to survive on their own for the first 72 hours after a disaster.

CERT members are trained to "self-activate" to first help themselves, their families and neighbors. Then they may be asked by local officials to gather and form teams to assist where needed.

"It's free, high-quality training that can help save the lives of family members and the general public," Lewis said. People are encouraged to enroll with a "buddy" because CERT operations are performed in pairs for safety reasons.

Reider said anyone from anywhere can attend a training session.

It's important to get CERT members trained throughout the region. "There's strength in numbers," he said, "and if they're all trained alike, they can respond alike."

CERT is part of the Citizens Corps, a national volunteer program, and a Homeland Security program managed by the Office of Domestic Preparedness. In Nebraska, the Citizens Corps is coordinated by the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission.

## SCHOOL CHEMICAL CLEANOUT - DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

As schools start to clear out for the summer the teachers are stuck staring at the remains of a hard year. Left-over books are littering lockers, old gum is stuck under chairs, and the occasional pop can is found under the bleachers. The one thing that seems to haunt them is the unused chemicals from the science labs. Questions that have popped up are: What is this stuff? What do we do with this stuff? If it's a hazard, how do we dispose of it?

LEPCs – If your schools are having this issue there is funding to help them dispose of chemicals. Contact **Tonya Smith**, SERC Coordinator at (402) 471-7176 or e-mail [tonya.smith@nema.ne.gov](mailto:tonya.smith@nema.ne.gov) for more information.

# HALLAM – TWO YEARS ON





# HALLAM – TWO YEARS ON (CONTINUED)



# **HALLAM – TWO YEARS ON** (CONTINUED)







***This is a listing of N.E.M.A.-sponsored training activities. To download a brochure or to register for a course, please visit the N.E.M.A. website at <http://www.nema.ne.gov> and click the button titled "Register for a Training Class".***

### Training Calendar Year 2006

COURSE & REGISTRATION	DATE	LOCATION	COURSE MANAGER	PARTICIPANT'S LIST / ACCEPTANCE
<a href="#">Soft Targets Awareness Course</a> See Course Brochure for Registration **	July 25-28, 2006 ( <a href="#">Brochure</a> )	Cornhusker Marriot Hotel Lincoln, NE <a href="#">Map</a>	<a href="#">Nikki Weber</a>	Participant's List Unavailable
<a href="#">Advanced Training Opportunity</a> ***	August 14-16, 2006 ( <a href="#">Brochure</a> )	Platte County EOC Columbus, NE <a href="#">Map</a>	<a href="#">Dewayne Morrow</a>	<a href="#">Participant's List</a>
<a href="#">Basic Academy</a> ***	August 14-18, 2006 ( <a href="#">Brochure</a> )	Lincoln, NE Ramada Inn Limited South	<a href="#">Seth Hyberger</a>	<a href="#">Participant's List</a>

**\*\* TARGET AUDIENCE includes: Property/Facility Managers, Supervisors, 1st Line Managers and their Security and Safety Staff**

**\*\*\* Applicant's MUST be a member of an Exercise Design Team and have a recommendation letter from the Local Emergency Manager (fax to 402-471-7433)**